



BEL AIR POLICE DEPARTMENT
 39 N. Hickory Avenue
 Bel Air, Maryland 21014



Special Order 2018-01

BEL AIR OPIOID OVERDOSE REDUCTION EFFORT

C. Moore
From: Chief Charles A. Moore

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Purpose

The Town of Bel Air is in the process of initiating the “Opioid Overdose Reduction Effort” to reduce the number of heroin/opioid overdoses and deaths; and to reduce criminality related to heroin/opioid addiction.

Goal 1: To decrease the number of heroin/opioid overdoses in the Town of Bel Air by early intervention and peer support efforts instituted by the Bel Air Police Department and partnering agencies (below).

Goal 2: To provide an opportunity for those suffering from heroin/opioid addiction an opportunity to recover from the addiction and to lead healthy and productive lives.

Goal 3: To reduce crime associated with these addictions.

Goal 4: To develop a solid recovery program that leverages all existing resources and partnerships to achieve maximum efficiency (promoting recovery and reducing crime), without, creating friction and/or redundancy with recovery programs already in existence.

Partnering Agencies

Family and Children Services of Harford County: For more than 165 years, FCS has provided families, children, and elders in Baltimore and the surrounding counties with social services focused on prevention, intervention, counseling, and advocacy. Their clients — from expectant mothers to at-risk elderly — are living, breathing examples of the critical work that we do. The Harford County Office is located at 44 East Gordon Street, Bel Air, Maryland 21014, phone #: 410-838-9000. Contact: Ms. Jennifer Redding jredding@fcsmd.org, phone #: 410-684-0354

Harford County Department of Social Services: The Maryland Department of Human Services (and Harford County branch of DHS) is the state’s primary social service provider, serving over one million people annually. The Department, through its 24 local departments of social services, aggressively pursues opportunities to assist people in economic need, provide preventive services, and protect vulnerable children and adults in each of Maryland’s 23

counties and Baltimore City. Located at 2 South Bond Street, Suite 300, Bel Air, Maryland 21014. Director: Mr. Jerry Reyerson jerry.reyerson@maryland.gov, phone #: 410-836-4955

Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy: An organization that promotes and provides prevention services through strategies utilizing the resources of public/private agencies and citizens. The Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy has been on the front-line of the opioid epidemic fight in our county and is located at 125 North Main Street, Bel Air, Maryland 21014. Director: Mr. Joseph Ryan jvryan@harfordcountymd.gov, phone #: 410-638-3308

Harford County Health Department: An organization that protects and promotes the health, safety and environment of the citizens of Harford County through community assessment, education, collaboration and assurance of services. The Health Department is located at 120 S. Hays Street, Bel Air, Maryland 21014. Contact, Ms. Wendy Kanely, 410-877-2355

Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center: The Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center (Center) was established by Executive Order [01.01.2017.01] as part of the Hogan Administration's 2017 Heroin and Opioid Prevention, Treatment, and Enforcement Initiative. The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, along with the Department of Health and Opioid Operational Command Center have recently announced that \$22 million has been set aside to fight the epidemic in Fiscal Year 2018. Eighty percent of this funding is going to Maryland's 24 local jurisdictions and service providers to fund prevention, enforcement, and treatment efforts throughout the state. Executive Director: Mr. Clay Stamp

Maryland Overdose Response Program: The Overdose Response Program is part of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's strategy to reduce overdose deaths. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) launched Maryland's Overdose Response Program (ORP) in March 2014 to provide training in overdose response and certify individuals—people who use drugs, their family members and friends; treatment program and transitional housing staff; and law enforcement officers—most able to assist someone at risk of dying from an opioid overdose when emergency medical services are not immediately available. On June 1, 2017, Dr. Howard Haft, DHMH Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services, issued a **new statewide standing order** allowing Maryland-licensed pharmacists to dispense naloxone to anyone who may be at risk for opioid overdose or in a position to assist someone believed to be experiencing opioid overdose. A person-specific paper or electronic prescription is not required for a pharmacist to dispense naloxone under the standing order.

Overview of Crisis

This tragic and ever escalating crisis has led Bel Air leaders to study innovative and collaborative programs throughout the country for ideas in combating this devastating threat that is touching many of our families and friends. The crisis has empowered Town leaders to collaborate with partners in the mental health and substance abuse communities in an attempt to offer recovery solutions. Research is revealing that it is clear that successes can be achieved by hard-work, collaboration, and by tearing down barriers that exists between mental health, substance abuse, law enforcement and the medical establishments.

To further complicate matters related to the epidemic, a new threat has emerged in the form of potent and cheap synthetic opioids. These opioids include fentanyl and carfentanil (analog that serves no medical purpose for human consumption). Fentanyl is up to 80 times more potent than morphine and carfentanil is thousands of times more potent than morphine. A few micrograms of carfentanil can kill humans. These threats have contributed greatly to the heroin/opioid overdoses and overdose deaths. These new threats also create significant risks for first responders who are the first line of offense in treating heroin/opioid overdose victims.

Currently, Harford County has experienced 363 overdoses with 68 fatal overdoses. This is 55% higher for overdoses and 21% higher overdose related deaths than all of last year. The Town of Bel Air is not immune from this crisis. Currently, the Town of Bel Air has experienced 32 heroin/opioid related overdoses and 5 heroin/opioid related deaths.

Plan of Action

Just as it is in Harford County, and many communities in this nation, this scourge is ravaging communities in Allegany County, Maryland. One of the hardest hit communities/County Seat/largest city in Allegany County, is Cumberland, Maryland.

This new program in Bel Air is loosely based on the Drug Abatement Response Team “DART” program, currently implemented by the City of Cumberland, the County Seat and largest city in Allegany County. The Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) concept was conceptualized by the Cumberland Police Department (Allegany County) under the leadership of Chief of Police Charles Hinnant. The program began in February of this year. Under The DART program, within 24 hours of the release of a heroin overdose victim, a crisis counselor from the Western Maryland Health System and a Cumberland police officer will arrive at the survivor's residence and offer the individual a chance to seek treatment for their drug addiction.

While Allegany County overdoses and deaths are high, the Town of Bel Air in a comparison between 2016 and 2017 has already seen a 146 % (13/32) increase in the number of opioid overdoses and a 400 % (1/5) increase in the number of opioid related deaths. It is clear that action must be taken.

Current Practices

Along with the formation of the Opioid Operational Command Center, developed as part of the Hogan Administration's 2017 Heroin and Opioid Prevention, Treatment, and Enforcement Initiative, an additional intervention program (**Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment -SBIRT**) has been instituted.

The SBIRT is an evidence-based tool designed to help physicians identify patients who are at risk of substance abuse and to provide appropriate intervention. It has been implemented for adult patients in approximately 22 primary care locations, across 36 sites, and throughout 10 jurisdictions including Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Carroll County, Anne Arundel County, Harford County, Howard County, St. Mary's

County, and Worcester County. More than 210,500 patients have been screened through the program, exceeding the five-year goal of 90,000 screenings. Of those, more than 3,000 individuals have been referred to treatment, with 377 individuals successfully linked to treatment (<http://beforeitstoolate.maryland.gov/state-approves-opioid-intervention-team-plans-for-all-24-local-jurisdictions/>).

Currently, in Harford County, upon the occurrence of an opioid related overdose, the victim is normally revived at the scene with narcan/naloxone. The victim is then transported to a medical facility (Upper Chesapeake) and provided further treatment.

Law enforcement contact either occurs at the scene or at the medical facility which treats the victim. In accordance with protocol established by the United States' Attorney's Office in 2016, the victim's cellular devices are seized. The victim is also provided a Harford County "Ready for Help?" card with a phone number to contact a Recovery Coach at 443-417-7810.

An officer/investigator will gather enough information to complete an "AAR" After Action Report which contains debriefing information from the overdose victim.

Program Implementation Procedures

- I. The Town of Bel Air Police Department will partner with the Family and Children Services of Maryland and recovery coaches (volunteers) from the Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy to conduct post overdose peer support/interventions, when requested by the overdose victim. The team will make a decision as to the best course of action after the intervention.
 - A. Currently, within the Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy, there are over 70 recovery coaches available for response. Some of the volunteers have recovered from addictions, and have received peer support training. Peer support personnel will provide first-hand counseling experience and support for victims desiring abstinence and recovery from opioid addiction (direct intervention).
 - B. The Bel Air DART program will include the option for families/relatives/acquaintances of Town of Bel Air heroin/opioid addicted victims to contact the Bel Air Police Department and request a meeting with the Bel Air intervention team for advice/direction (Indirect Intervention)
 1. One of these options may involve criminally investigating activities of the heroin/opioid addicted victim.
 2. The goal of a potential criminal investigation and charges for an addicted victim who refuses to acknowledge their addiction is to provide an avenue for recovery based on accountability. Hopefully, this method will avert tragic consequences of continued addictive behavior.
 3. Disposition of minor criminal charges will be handled by the Harford County Drug Court system.

Direct Intervention Procedures

- I. During the initial phases of contact with an overdose victim (normally in a medical environment) the law enforcement officer will follow routine overdose protocol concerning the partnership with the Harford County Drug Task Force.
 - A. During this contact the BAPD officer will request permission from the overdose victim for intervention services from the intervention team – IF THE OVERDOSE VICTIM IS A TOWN OF BEL AIR RESIDENT. This will be documented on a consent form (consent form will provide details of the intervention team concept).
 - B. Officers will exercise an empathetic and compassionate approach in an attempt to gain cooperation and participation from overdose victims.
 - C. Avoiding stigmatizing language and include reminders concerning the effectiveness of opioid addiction support will go far in gaining cooperation.
 - D. Officers should remember that our goal is to REDUCE overdoses and save lives; support the victims in achieving recovery and reducing criminal behavior to support addiction.
 - E. The BAPD officer who is in the company of the overdose victim will request the permission for intervention FOR A TOWN OF BEL AIR RESIDENT regardless of the response of the Harford County Drug Task Force officer. If necessary, allow the Drug Task Force officer to perform the initial contact and then follow-up with the details of the intervention program.
 - F. If the overdose victim refuses an intervention (ensure refusal or acceptance is documented on consent form) or if the overdose victim is not a Town of Bel Air resident. The victim will be provided a “Ready for Help” resource card and no further effort will be made to gain participation with an intervention.
 - G. Copies of the consent form will be forwarded to the Chief/Deputy Chief/Corporal Gullion. This will provide the catalyst on determining the type of intervention .
 - H. This process is meant to support and enhance (not duplicate) efforts of a physician or medical support involved in the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment –SBIRT process. Positive collaboration with medical personnel during treatment is imperative for success.
- II. The attempt for an intervention will be documented in the investigation report and a request for intervention will be communicated through email to the Chief/Deputy Chief and Criminal Sergeant. Copies of the Bel Air Police Department Authorization/Consent form will be provided to the Chief/Deputy Chief and Corporal Gullion.
- III. Upon receiving a positive request for intervention a peer support team will activate within 24 – 48 hours to provide peer support/intervention services for an overdose victim.
- IV. The Maryland Department of Parole and Probation, Bel Air Office, is a partner in the DART concept and agents will only accompany the Team when the subject, of the overdose, is an offender on their caseload.

- V. An officer (armed investigator in plain clothes) will accompany the team primarily for security and to provide other legal assistance, if necessary, for the team during the intervention.
 - A. The officer will be responsible for transport if the team has made a determination that the overdose victim requires immediate medical treatment or an emergency petition must be completed (complete at medical facility).
 - B. The officer will not provide additional transportation for the overdose victim after the initial ride to a treatment facility, unless requested by medical staff.
- VI. Should the Officer and/or the Parole and Probation Agent observe criminal activity, or elements of a crime, and/or the parole and probation client is in violation of his/her court ordered sanctions during these visits, they are to take appropriate action.
- VII. Crisis Counselors will stage at a safe location and await police arrival.
 - A. Crisis Counselors are not to enter a scene or initiate contact alone or prior to Bel Air Police Department arrival and participation.
- VIII. A team that is met with a participant's refusal, or if the overdose victim is an out-of-town will result in the Team attempting to leave a brochure for the victim and exiting the area.

Indirect Intervention Procedures

- I. A request made to the Bel Air Police Department Indirect Intervention from a family member/acquaintance may be initiated by officer contact or through contact with Bel Air Police Department Dispatch.
- II. BAPD personnel will ensure that the victim referenced by the complainant is a Town of Bel Air resident.
 - A. If the victim is not a Town of Bel Air resident the victim will be provided a Harford County "Ready for Help?" card (or verbally provided the information) with a phone number to contact a Recovery Coach at 410-877-2347.
- III. Everyone who contacts the Bel Air Police Department, whether or not the potential overdose victim is a Town resident, seeking help in "indirect" fashion will be directed to the [Maryland Overdose Response Program](#) and reminded of the [Statewide Standing Order](#) allowing Maryland-licensed pharmacists to dispense naloxone to anyone who may be at risk for opioid overdose or in a position to assist someone believed to be experiencing opioid overdose.
- IV. If it is determined that the Heroin/Opioid addicted victims resides in the Town of Bel Air, notification will be made to the Chief/Deputy Chief/Criminal Section Sergeant in order that the Bel Air DART team can be mobilized to meet the complainant within 48 hours of notification.
- V. The Complaint Control Card will document that a Bel Air opioid abatement intervention was requested.